

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



TONI ATKINS
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NEWS RELEASE

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Councilmember Atkins Announces Budget Gains CDBG Allocations for District Three

San Diego - In keeping with her campaign promise to make infrastructure needs her top priority, Councilmember Toni Atkins recently announced significant gains for Council District Three in the area of infrastructure and capital improvements as part of the City's Fiscal Year 2002 budget. Additionally, Councilmember Atkins announced her FY 2002 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding allocations, which also heavily targeted infrastructure needs, community redevelopment, capital improvement projects and business improvement.

Locating funds for infrastructure needs was Councilmember Atkins' number one priority during the FY 02 budget hearings. When the final budget was approved, the Third District Councilmember had succeeded in securing an additional \$400,000 to be earmarked for street, sidewalk and general infrastructure improvements in the district. Some of these improvements include completion of the El Cajon Boulevard Median Project from Texas Street to 30th Street, improvements to the intersection of 28th Street and Redwood Street, the Pershing Portal Project at the gateway to North Park at 28th Street and Upas Street, and the Euclid Avenue revitalization project.

"Streets, sidewalks, potholes, and other basic infrastructure needs are the matters that directly affect our day-to-day lives the most. They are the basic quality-of-life issues that we expect a City to address and maintain," said Councilmember Atkins. "The residents and business owners in District Three expect their councilmember to fight for these funds, and I'm pleased I was able to come through for them."

The final budget will also provide for enhancements to local library services, with extended hours being added to the North Park branch and the Kensington branch, as well as a major increase in the book budget for all branches in the district.

Infrastructure maintenance and community enhancement figured prominently in the Community Development Block Grant priorities of the Councilmember as well. Of the \$1.47 million in CDBG bricks and mortar funds that Councilmember Atkins had discretion over during this annual funding cycle, she earmarked \$909,500 (62 percent) for infrastructure, community development, capital improvement projects and business enhancement.

Not included in the \$1.47 million is the \$562,937 of Council District Three CDBG funds which are earmarked specifically for the City Heights Urban Village and the Mid-City Police Substation. Councilmember Atkins remains committed to supporting these projects through repayment of the Section 108 federal loans which helped finance them.

With regard to infrastructure, Councilmember Atkins allocated \$70,000 for code enforcement, \$26,500 for mid-block streetlights, \$15,000 for tree plantings, \$7,000 for graffiti paintouts, and \$7,000 for library renovations. Of special note was Councilmember Atkins allocation of \$90,000 in District Three's unique 75/25 sidewalk program which helps citizens replace deteriorating sidewalks in front of their homes. The program reduces the homeowner's share of the cost of sidewalk repair by 75 percent when the work is completed by City contractors.

"CDBG funding is one of the quickest, most effective and direct ways to effectuate positive change in our neighborhoods. The organizations that receive these funds are able to immediately turn them into tangible improvements in our neighborhoods," said Atkins. "That's why I will continue to allocate the lion's share of our District Three CDBG funds to organizations and project which will improve the look and feel of our neighborhoods."

Councilmember Atkins also allocated funds for a variety of capital improvement projects in the district, including the El Cajon Boulevard Median Project, the Euclid Avenue Revitalization Project, the Mid-City Transit Interchange Project, the Park Boulevard Median Project, Shirley Ann Place Historical Streetlights Project, as well as minor improvements to the Vermont Street Bridge and funds for the Azalea Park Neighborhood Identification Project.

Additionally, \$120,000 went toward homeless services, including Alpha Project for the Homeless and Harvest for the Hungry, while \$83,000 went to organizations supporting new Americans, including Alliance for African Assistance, UPAC, Supreme Council of the Somali Community in America, and the Vietnamese Federation of America.

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